

## BURDEN AN OWNER OF VILLAGE VOICE

Councilman Concedes He  
Has Major Interest

City Councilman Carter Burden said yesterday that he controlled the majority interest in The Village Voice.

In a transaction that took place in January, the controlling interest of the newspaper's stock was purchased by Taurus Communications, Inc., according to Edwin Fancher, publisher of The Voice.

Mr. Burden said yesterday that he held "about 65 per cent or "less than \$300,000," in Taurus, which was set up at the beginning of the year by himself and Bartle Bull, a 31-year-old Manhattan lawyer who managed Mr. Burden's campaign for the Council last year.

"I want to stress that I explicitly have no control or, indeed, responsibility for any management or editorial policy of The Voice," Mr. Burden said. "To me, this is purely an investment. The Voice has been a remarkably successful publication."

The Councilman, who had previously declined to give details of the purchase on the ground that The Voice and Taurus were "closed corporations," said he disclosed the information yesterday to clarify a report in The Washington Post that he had purchased the entire paper for \$3.5-million.

### Control Called Unchanged

Mr. Fancher, who is a shareholder of The Voice along with its editor, Daniel Wolf, added that the agreements made with the purchase "give us complete control as long as we stay with the paper, and we plan to stay for a long, long time."

Mr. Fancher and Mr. Wolf were among the founders of the paper in 1955 and they have overseen its growth since then to a circulation of 140,000. Throughout its history, said Mr. Fancher, The Voice has undergone "eight or nine changes in stock ownership."

The most recent major transaction before the Taurus purchase was in August of 1968, when five per cent of the shares was acquired by the Straus Broadcasting Group, which operates radio station WMCA here. The remainder was held by Mr. Fancher and Mr. Wolf who owned 35 per cent each; Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Lutz, who owned 10, and Norman Mailer, a founder, who owned 15.

The principals involved in the transaction — including Mr. Burden, Mr. Bull and Mr. Fancher — declined to give details of the stock purchase, other than to say that the Straus Group sold its interest and that the entire stock had been "re-capitalized."

### Paper to Switch Sites

"More than half," was the only way Mr. Fancher would characterize the Taurus purchase. He also declined to give a total worth of the newspaper. He said, however, that with the new ownership, The Voice would be pursuing such ventures as international circulation and book publishing, "some thing we've wanted to do for a while."

With the transaction, Mr. Fancher said, Mr. Bull will become vice president and general counsel of the Village Voice Company next week. In an unrelated development, he said, the newspaper will be moving its offices next month from Christopher Street and Seventh Avenue to larger quarters at 11th Street and University Place.